

The Daily Gazetteer.

NUM. 164

TUESDAY, JANUARY 6. 1736.

770.164.



THE *Domestick Enemies* of Britain have, these many Years, incessantly laboured, under the Name of *Minister*, to brand all *Government*; and, under the Name of *Liberty*, to countenance all *Licentiousness*: Yet, superior to their deepest Artifice, the *British Constitution* still flourishes, and

Patriotism is still distinguished from all the Disguises worn by private Ambition.

At length the *Oracle of Fashion*, Mr. D'Anvers, has turned his Thoughts to the Consideration of our *Antient Ecclesiastical Liberty*, in defence of which, we may presume, he will acquit himself with his usual Dexterity, no less to the Honour of the Antients, than to the Confusion of the Moderns: We may hope too, on so fair an Occasion, to be acquainted with this honest Patriot's Sentiments of Religious Liberty, and to see what glorious Improvements that monstrous Confederacy, of which he has been so long a worthy Member, may have made in his Whigism on this Head.

In the mean while, let me offer the Reader some further Considerations on our Religious Divisions, and the amicable Method of adjusting them.

In my Last I made it appear, by the natural and necessary Consequences from Principles agreed to by both Parties, from the Right of Private Judgment, and the indispensable Obligation every Man is under to make it the Rule of his Religion, That how far any Establishment of Religion was in Contradiction to the undeniable Right of Private Judgment, to the Divine Law of Liberty, so far it was wrong, and wanted to be amended.

The just Bounds of the *Magistrate's Power* in Religious Affairs, will hence be easily determined: It will be evident to all thinking Men, That the *Magistrate*, as well as a Private Man, has a Right to the Religion of his Judgment, and, by Consequence, to establish his Religion in any Manner that shall not break in upon the same Right of Choice in other Men; that shall still leave them the full Liberty of their Judgment, by subjecting them to no Losses or Hardship for the Exercise of it.

The Majority, as well as the Minority: a Nation, as well as a Sect, will have a Right to chuse their own Guides, and to make what Qualifications they please necessary for their own Ministers; but to conclude therefore, That the Majority have a Right to inflict Penalties on the Minority who differ from them, is to suppose that the Minority have not an equal Title to the Religion of their Judgment, and as much Right to differ from the Majority, as the Majority, have to differ from them.

Hence then is the Point, where we must fix the Rule of Conduct in which we are justified: This is the Fundamental, Immutable Law of Equity: And is it not this righteous Principle that the *Clergy* appeal, when they tell us, in their own Paper, in the *Weekly Miscellany*, in behalf of the Church, "That the Church has established such and such Doctrines, and declared them to be, in their Judgments, True Scripture Doctrines, leaving every Man's Conscience at Liberty whether he will receive them as such, or no; all the Business is, that those who do not believe such Doctrines are not to be admitted to the Office of the Ministry by those whom the Church hath appointed as proper Judges. And where is the Harm? Or who has any Reason to object? It is a Right which every Society has, of making what TESTS they think proper for those who shall be admitted as Teachers in that Society; and whoever opposes this, breaks in upon their Liberty."

I ask then, Whether the Right which every Society has to chuse its own Teachers, can be asserted in a stronger Manner than it is here by the *Clergy*? Is it not expressly said, That opposing this Right is breaking in upon the just Liberty of Society? And can any thing militate more forcibly against Penalties for exercising this Right, than such a Declaration? Is it not asserted, from the Mouth of the *Clergy*, That Tests, so

far as they relate to the qualifying of their respective Teachers, are the Right of every Society, and this is all the Business? And ought it not to be all the Business?

To the same unerring Rule of Equity, the same Fundamental Principle of Liberty, does the *Occasional Writer* appeal, when he calls upon the *Dissenters*, publicly to disavow and condemn a *Confession of Faith*, agreed upon by an *Assembly of Divines* in the Year 1646, wherein it is expressly declared, "That the *Civil Magistrate* hath Authority, and it is his Duty to take Order that *Unity and Peace* be preserved in the Church; that the *Truth of God* be kept pure and entire; that ALL *Blasphemies and Heresies* be suppressed, ALL *Corruptions and Abuses in Worship* and *Discipline* prevented or reformed; and all the Ordinances of God duly settled, administered, and observed."

How clearly does the *Occasional Writer* see through all the specious Pretences, the Gildings, and fair Coverings, of this Religious Tyranny! How justly does he condemn this *Article of Faith* as a *persecuting Doctrine*! How reasonably does he call for a public Disavowal of it, and recommend to us an impartial Hatred of Persecution!

WHAT hinders then, the Agreement of our Religious Disputants? What have they to do, but not to allow that in themselves which they condemn in others; to keep to the eternal Principles of Equity, not to assert at one Time what they deny at another; but in a Word, to be consistent with themselves?

THIS Right of private Judgment, this Right of Choice, and all the Benefits flowing from it, is so evident a Principle, that it will force an Acknowledgment to its Truth, whether a Man will or no; it will escape him in some Shape or other, let his Art be never so great. The last *Weekly Miscellany* may convince us of this, which breathes the Spirit of Rome, rather than of Britain; of Popery, rather than of Protestantism: The Author seems highly delighted with the Idea of Officers dragging away Men to Punishment, for publishing their Sentiments; and talks of the Rights of Nature, and the Conditions of Society, as of Matters fit only for the sublime Comprehension of Ecclesiastical Understandings, as Matters above us, the poor Laity. Yet this Writer, where he did not intend it, has confessed to the Right of private Judgment. "I take it for granted," says he, "that no Man in his Wits, or that is a serious and diligent Enquirer after Truth, would take a Man for his Guide in Religion, or any thing else, of whose Skill and Capacity he had no Sort of Assurance; and I likewise take it for granted, that no Man, in the Choice of a Guide, would prefer one of little or no Reputation for Knowledge and Abilities, before others of the highest Reputation for both."

Is not this acknowledging, in the fullest Manner, that every Man in his Wits has a Right to chuse those for his Guides, of whose Skill and Capacity, he has the best Opinion? And will our Author after this, give me a Reason why he should suffer for his Choice?

If my Memory is not uncommonly false to me, our Author will not find himself very fortunate in sending us to the *Chillingworth*, the *Grotius*'s, the *Puffendorf*'s, and the *Tillotson*'s, as to the *Enemies of Men's natural Rights*: But however that be, the Appeal is to Truth and to Reason, and not to Authority; if these Great Men have, at any Time, argued against the Rights of Men, in such Reasonings, their Opposition to Truth will be of no more Force, than if it came from the *weakest of weak Reasoners*, the *Miscellanist*.

WITHOUT doubt the Buffoonery and Scurrility of the *Miscellanist*, will be treated with the Contempt it deserves; but we are certainly obliged to him for letting us know who they are, that think the Title of a Paper on the Side of the Government, a sufficient Reason for laying it aside; while D'Anvers's and Fog's Protestant Labours, are, no doubt, as cordially received; Fog, whose Doctrine it is, that a *Popish King* may preserve our Liberties as well as a *Protestant Prince*, and that all Germans are Beasts. This rejecting of Writings, without a Line being read, seems just as fair as would be

the exacting of Belief, where a Word is not understood; but I suppose this candid Treatment of all Papers in Behalf of the Government, is given us as a Demonstration of these Men's sincere and warm Attachment to it. They look upon the Title Page of a Paper, see it is for the Government, and lay it aside, without reading a Line. From this Conduct, we are to learn the great Affection of such Ecclesiasticks to the Government, and surely we shall not be mistaken, if we conclude it to be just the same now, as it was Twenty Years ago.

BRITANNUS.

L O N D O N.

We have the following most melancholly and surprizing Relation from Uttoxeter in Staffordshire, viz. On Thursday the 18th of December, Craven Kinnerley, Esq; of Loxley-Hall near the said Place, going with his Keeper and Groom into his Park to shoot a Deer, having a Greyhound Dog with them, the Dog run at a Doe, which the Keeper thought to be with Kid, and laying his Piece down in order to rescue her, the Dog unfortunately run over the Gun, which went off, and tho' loaded only with one Bullet, first shot the Groom thro' the Arm, then enter'd in at Mr. Kinnerley's Knee (who sat on Horseback) went up his Thigh Bone about four Inches, then broke through the Bone, and went to the Upper Part of his Thigh, where it lodg'd: Mr. Kinnerley was immediately carried home, and had his Leg and Thigh cut off; and notwithstanding all possible Care, he languished till Friday Morning the 26th past, and then died. The Groom had his Arm cut off, and is in a fair Way of Recovery. The aforesaid unfortunate Gentleman was about 25 Years of Age, possess'd of a very plentiful Estate, and two Years ago was High Sheriff for the County of Stafford. He was married about a Year and a Half since to Sir Walter Bagot's Sister, who but three Weeks before this sad Misfortune happened, was brought to Bed of her first Child, which was Stillborn. The Bulk of his Estate, we hear, descends to his younger Brother, who has been some Time in the Sea Service.

Edinburgh, Dec. 30. Thursday last an Order from the Right Hon. the Lord Justice-Clerk, and Lords Commissioners of Justiciary, came directed to the Magistrates and Keeper of the Tolbooth of this City; requiring them forthwith to set at Liberty James Long, Corporal, and Thomas M'Adam, Centinel, of Col. Hamilton's Regiment, in respect they had found sufficient Caution (each under the Penalty of 300 Merks) to answer to any Criminal Libel or Indictment that shall be exhibited against them before the Court of Justiciary at the King's Advocate's Instance, within the Space of Six Months, from the Date of their Bailbond. And they were set at Liberty accordingly.

Last Week the Right Hon. the Earl of Morton, and the Lord Cathcart, set out for London; as did the Hon. Patrick Lindsay, Esq; Representative for this City, and Mr. Brodie of Lethem: And the rest of our Representatives are upon the Point of setting out.

Last Week one David Fearn came to Town, and has taken up his Residence in Kennedy's Close. He was born in the Shire of Ross, aged 26, is about 30 Inches high, yet 35 Inches round; has all the human Members, only his Hands resemble the Feet of a Seal, and his Feet those of a Bear; and can dance a Hornpipe to Admiration.

Last Thursday died at his Seat of Ochtertire, in Perthshire, the Honourable Sir Patrick Murray, Bart. and is succeeded in Honour and Estate by Sir William Murray, his Son.

As did also the same Day, David Haldane, of Abernethy, Esq; who had come to Ochtertire to visit Sir Patrick, his Brother-in-Law.

Last Week the Laird of Pitcur was married to Miss Burnet, only Child of Gilbert Burnet, Esq; one of the Commissioners of Excise, a fine young Lady, and a great Fortune.

Norwich, Jan. 3. A House in St. Mary's was broke open on the 29th of December at Night, and supposed to be done by a Person who concealed himself in the House till the Family were in Bed, and then

then carried off 5 or 61. in Money, and the Woman's Child-bed Linnen, and got off undiscovered.

Last Saturday Night, one Roberts of Acle, (being much disordered with Liquor) gung through the Lower Clofe into Bishopgate-ft eet, fell into the Ditch joining to Whiffle's Garden, and was there found dead on Sunday Noon.

On Thursday a Gentleman of the Jewish Religion was baptiz'd at St. John's Maddermarket, by the Rev. Dr. Francis.

Yesterday William Tompson, of St. Peter's, Southgate, was convicted of Retailing Distilled Liquors without Licence, and paid a Fine of Twenty Shillings, according to the Act of Parliament in that Case made.

An Account of the Births and Burials at Norwich, from the First of January to the 31st of December last.

Born Males 432	Buried Males 447
Females 375	Females 438
Total 807	Total 885

Decreased in the Buria's this Year 78.

Yesterday came on the Election of an Alderman for Lime-street Ward, in the room of Sir Richard Hopkins, deceased: The Candidates were Robert Willmott, Esq; one of the Representatives of this City in Parliament, and Mr. Pomeroy, an eminent Linnen-Draper, and Deputy of that Ward. Upon the holding up of Hands, the Lord Mayor was of Opinion the Numbers were so equal, that it was difficult to decide on whom the Majority was fallen; that, as he doubted not but that both Sides were determined for a Poll, he thought it advisable to proceed thereto without any Declaration; which being approved of on both Sides, they immediately proceeded to the Poll, on the Conclusion of which the Numbers appeared to be

For Robert Willmott, Esq; 62

Mr. Deputy Pomeroy 61

Whereupon the Former was declared, and a Scrutiny thereon demanded.

His Majesty has been pleased to appoint Ensign Smith, of the Foot Guards, to be a Lieutenant in the Regiment of Foot commanded by the Right Hon. the Earl of Orkney.

Sir Francis Clavering, Bart. is dangerously ill of the Gout, at his House in Red-Lyon-Street.

Yesterday Morning died at his Lodgings a: Islington, Thomas Webster, of Bletchingly in Surry, Esq;

Last Sunday in the Evening, about Five o'Clock, Mr. George Potts, returning from Kingston to his House at Parsons Green, was attacked between the said Green and Fulham, by a single Highwayman, who robbed him of 11. 6s.

On Thursday next will be held a General Council at St. James's, when the Report of the Eleven Malefactors under Sentence of Death in Newgate will be made to his Majesty.

Yesterday Jacob Neale was committed to Newgate by Justice Jones, for knocking down John Bailey, on Sunday Night in Stretton-street, and robbing him of 31. 2s. 6d. and his Hat and Wig.

The Subject of the Hyp-Doctor published this Day is, The True Origin of Fog's Second Assassination-Plot; with some Verses applicable to it: The State of the Controversy in the Craftsman concerning the Ecclesiastical Constitution; a Reply to a Sneer on Loads of Paper sent into the Country, and the Key to the English Law continued.

Yesterday Bank Stock was 148. India 170. South Sea 95. Old Annuity 110 3-4ths to 111. New ditto, 111 1 half to 3-4ths. Three per Cent. 100 1-4th. Emperor's Loan 110 1-half. Royal Assurance 102. London Assurance 13 1-8th to 1-4th. York Buildings 2. African 15. India Bonds 51. 14 s. to 15s. Prem. Three per Cent. ditto 31. 14 s. Prem. South Sea Bonds 41. 15s. Prem. New Bank Circulation 51. 7s. 6d. Prem. Salt Tallies 3 1-half to 4 1-4th Prem. English Copper 21. 1s. Welsh ditto, Books shut. Three 1-half per Cent. Exchequer Orders 3 1-half per Cent. Prem. Million Bank 110.

Whereas on Saturday the 6th of December last, was drop'd a Silver Watch, in or near the Yard of Mr. John Bathurst of Crondall, near Farnham in Surry, and taken up by a little Country Boy: Now if the said Boy, or any other Person, will bring it to the Bar of St. Ma gues's Hill Coffee-house, in the Borough of South-wark, shall have Two Guineas Reward; or if offered to be Sold or Pawn'd, pray Stop it, and you shall have the same Reward, upon the Delivery. It had to it, when lost, an old Kilboa and Brass Key, the Maker's Name, Martin, with a Crest of Arms on the Outside Case, viz. Two Lyons Couchant, and a Tree between a Cross a Hag and a Tree.

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To the Memory of Mr. Hughes: by a Lady.
A Receipt for a running Frush in the Foot of an Horse.
A Poem in Praise of Nalstiness.
To the Memory of a Friend.
To a Gentleman on his Marriage: by Mr. CONGANE.
A Crambo on Ballyshellan.
The 8th Ode to the 4th Book of Horace: addressed to Dr. Towne: by Mr. CONGANE.
A familiar Ode for the New Year: addressed to Edw. Roome, Esq; by the same.
The humble Address of his Majesty's Ship Orford, 1727.
An Epistle to the Right Hon. Sir R. WALPOLE.
Verses occasioned by the foregoing Epistle.
The Monkey and the Mastiff; a Fable: by Mr. CONGANE.
An Epilogue, spoken and sung at the Theatre in Dublin, by Mrs. Sterling.
An Epistle to Mr. H. by a Person of Honour.
The Cause of Infancy: by the same.
Verses to a Lady, upon his receiving a Hurt in one of his Eyes: by the same.
A Fable, addressed to the Ld. Vis. Mont-cassel.
An Epistle to Lord Carteret, occasioned by the Copper Coinage: by Mr. CONGANE.
An Epistle to Ld. Carteret, &c. by Dr. D-N-Y.
The Dangler.
A Cure for Love; a Tale: by Mr. CONGANE.
An Ode to the Queen, on their Majesties happy Accession: by the Rev. Mr. NEWCOMB.
The Templer's Bill of Complaint to the Lord Chancellor. By J. B. Esq;
The Progress of Poetry.
To the ingenious Lady, Author of, The Progress of Poetry.
The Bridge of Life: an allegorical Poem, in Imitation of the 15th Spectator.
Damon and Thyrae.
Paraphrase on Psal. 73.
An Epistle from a Clergyman in Herefordshire, to his Friend at Chipping-Ongar.
On the burning the obscene Pieces in Lord Rochester's Works.
Paraphrase on Psal. 148.
An Ode to the Memory of Anne Dutches of Hamilton: By ALLAN RAMSAY.
On the Death of Earl Cadogan.
On Dr. Frazier's rebuilding Part of the University of Aberdeen: By Mr. MALLET.
On Miss Harvey, being a Day old: in Imitation of Mr. P-S.
Supplication for Miss Carteret, in the Small-Pox: By AMBROSE PHILLIPS, Esq;
To Miss Georgiana Carteret: By the same.
Damon; a City Eclogue.
A Hymn on the Resurrection.
Paraphrase on Job viii.
Paraphrase on Psal. 104. in Imitation of Milton's Style.
Verses on her Majesty's Birthday, 1727. by P. FAOWDE, Esq;
Regulus: A Pindaric Ode.
The Carmen Seculare of Horace; translated by Mr. W. DUNCOMBE.
Upon a Lady who said she loved to surprise.
The Involuntary Sinners; a Tale.
An Epithalamium; by a Lady.
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